

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

BENJAMIN ESPINOSA,
Plaintiff,
v.
CALVIN JOHNSON, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00125-GMN-BNW

ORDER

On January 24, 2023, pro se plaintiff Benjamin Espinosa, an inmate in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections, submitted a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and applied to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1, 1-1). Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is incomplete because Plaintiff did not file an application on this Court's approved form and did not include a financial certificate and an inmate trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period with the application. The Court will deny Plaintiff's application without prejudice and give Plaintiff the opportunity to correct these deficiencies **by March 27, 2023**.

I. DISCUSSION

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada must collect filing fees from parties initiating civil actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The fee for filing a civil-rights action is \$402, which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$52 administrative fee. See 28 U.S.C. § 1914(b). "Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to the court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*." Nev. Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-1. For an inmate to apply for *in forma pauperis* status, the inmate must submit **all three** of the following documents to the Court: (1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate**, which is pages 1–3 of the Court's approved form, that is properly signed by the inmate twice on page 3; (2) a completed **Financial Certificate**, which is page 4 of the Court's approved form, that is properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail official; and (3) a copy of the **inmate's prison or jail trust fund account**

1 **statement for the previous six-month period.** See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1)–(2); Nev.
2 Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-2. *In forma pauperis* status does not relieve an inmate of his or her
3 obligation to pay the filing fee, it just means that the inmate can pay the fee in installments.
4 See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

5 As explained above, Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is
6 incomplete. The Court will therefore deny Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma*
7 *pauperis* without prejudice and grant Plaintiff an extension of time to either pay the filing
8 fee or file a new fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three
9 required documents.

10 **II. CONCLUSION**

11 It is therefore ordered that the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1)
12 is denied without prejudice.

13 It is further ordered that Plaintiff has **until March 27, 2023**, to either pay the full
14 \$402 filing fee or file a new fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with
15 all three required documents: (1) a completed application with the inmate's two signatures
16 on page 3, (2) a completed financial certificate that is signed both by the inmate and the
17 prison or jail official, and (3) a copy of the inmate's trust fund account statement for the
18 previous six-month period.

19 Plaintiff is cautioned that this action will be subject to dismissal without prejudice if
20 Plaintiff fails to timely comply with this order. A dismissal without prejudice allows Plaintiff
21 to refile the case with the Court, under a new case number, when Plaintiff can file a
22 complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the required filing fee.

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1 The Clerk of the Court is directed to send Plaintiff Benjamin Espinosa the approved
2 form application to proceed *in forma pauperis* for an inmate and instructions for the same
3 and retain the complaint (ECF No. 1-1) but not file it at this time.

4 DATED: January 30, 2023.

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6 BREND A WEKSLER
7 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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